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**STATEMENT BY UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL
UNION PRESIDENT JOE HANSEN ON THE AT&T AND T-MOBILE MERGER**

Washington, D.C. – The acquisition of T-Mobile USA by AT&T is good news for workers, consumers and the U.S. economy. This merger represents an opportunity for the U.S. to expand high speed broadband and buildout, narrow the digital divide and improve the quality of service for consumers. This merger also gives T-Mobile workers the same protections and bargaining power as the 42,000 unionized workers at AT&T, the only wireless provider that has a unionized workforce.

A strong partnership already exists between the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the German trade union, ver.di, and the two unions formed a joint organization called TU that represents T-Mobile workers on both sides of the Atlantic. In Germany, Deutsche Telekom, which owns T-Mobile, fully recognizes workers' bargaining rights, and ver.di is a full and positive partner. That has not been the case in the U.S., where T-Mobile workers have been discouraged from forming a union.

Amid the anti-union legislation sweeping through the country, this merger is a positive step in the right direction for workers who want to make their own choice about having a bargaining voice. The UFCW has no doubt that T-Mobile's workers will benefit from their association with the CWA and the union's president, Larry Cohen, and finally have a voice in their workplace.

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The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) represents more than 1.3 million workers, primarily in the retail and meatpacking, food processing and poultry industries. The UFCW protects the rights of workers and strengthens America's middle class by fighting for health care reform, immigration reform, living wages, retirement security, safe working conditions and the right to unionize so that working men and women and their families can realize the American Dream. For more information about the UFCW's effort to protect workers' rights and strengthen America's middle class, visit www.ufcw.org.